

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (cancelled)

10. (new) A filter element for a fuel filter system, comprising:

a first end disk having a guide opening;

a second end disk having a guide opening;

a filter medium between the first end disk and the second end disk;

a return line having first and second ends, wherein the return line has a guide cap at each of its first and second ends, which guide cap has a guide tip and a nozzle orifice that opens to the outside of the filter element, wherein the return line extends between the first end disk and the second end disk, and wherein the return line is carried with one of its guide tips being inserted into the guide opening of the first end disk and the other guide tip being inserted into the guide opening of the second end disk.

11. (new) A filter element according to claim 10, wherein at least one nozzle orifice has a diameter of about 0.2 mm to 0.5 mm.

12. (new) A filter element according to claim 11, wherein one of the first and second end disks has a first filter sealing area, which is directed exteriorly of the filter element, and a second filter sealing area, which is directed interiorly of the filter element, and wherein one of the nozzle orifices is situated between the first filter sealing area and the second filter sealing area.

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Reply dated August 31, 2005

Response to Office Action dated May 31, 2005

13. (new) In an internal combustion engine, the improvement comprising a fuel filter according to claim 10.

14. (new) In a motor vehicle having an internal combustion engine, the improvement comprising a fuel filter according to claim 10, wherein a liquid connection of a filter housing of the fuel filter is connected to a fuel line of a fuel tank, and another liquid connection of the filter housing is connected to a fuel return line leading to the fuel tank.